

The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 20 April 1967

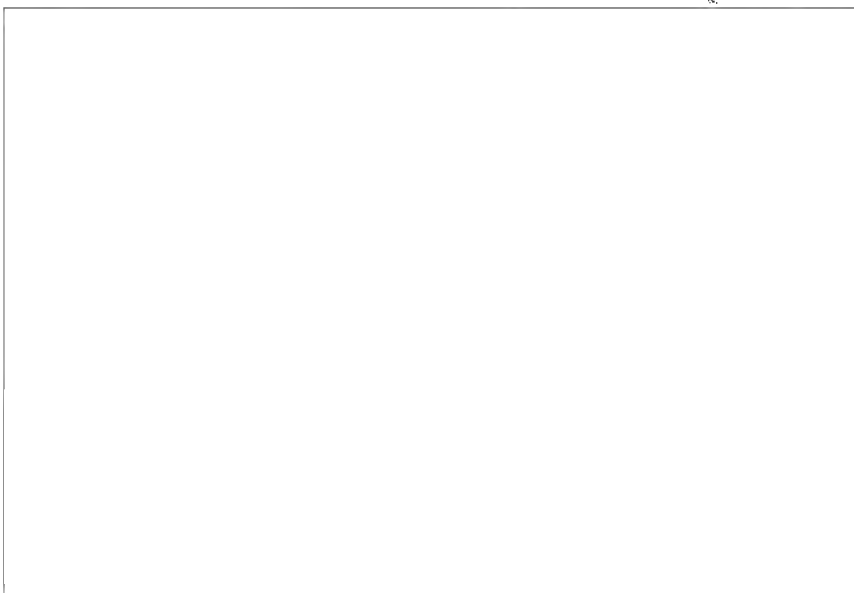


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DAILY BRIEF
20 APRIL 1967

1. South Vietnam

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2. South Vietnam

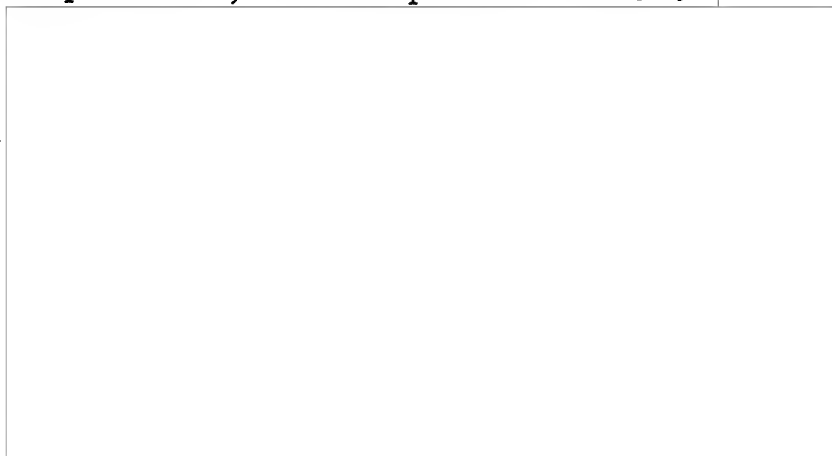
Recent intelligence assessments conclude that the Viet Cong have lost momentum in the southern Mekong Delta provinces, but government forces have not been making much progress either. Despite some ambitious plans for Revolutionary Development, the situation in these eight southernmost provinces appears to be stalemated.

3. Greece

The government may be getting ready to arrest left-wing leader Andreas Papandreou, the ex-premier's son.

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4. Sino-Soviet

There may be some truth to the story that Moscow and Peking have made a deal which will make it easier for the Russians to get their military shipments across China to North Vietnam. Much of the heat seems to have gone out of the transit issue since last February, when Moscow was charging the Chinese with serious obstruction.

It is not clear just what arrangement has been made [REDACTED]

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A transit agreement would appear to have more psychological than military significance. Its importance has in fact been ballooned by the press.

For instance, despite Soviet propaganda charges, there is no evidence that Soviet shipments have been seriously delayed. There also is no evidence yet to support stories [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] that an agreement has opened the way to greatly increased arms shipments.

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In any case, it would suit the Russians and North Vietnamese if they could get it across that the Sino-Soviet problem is not so serious as to undermine North Vietnam's defenses.

5. Nigeria

The Eastern Region has come still closer to de facto secession by taking over the management and assets of all federal services in the East, such as power, transport and communications. This puts the ball in Gowon's court. When it has been there before, he has talked tough but done little.

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6. Bolivia

We now have good evidence that the guerrilla activity in southeast Bolivia is--as La Paz has claimed--Communist supported and directed. Both the pro-Soviet and pro-Chinese Communist parties of Bolivia are involved

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7. Soviet Union

8. Soviet Union

All our usual indicators point to a major space launch--probably another test in the Soviet manned space program--within the next few days. It could be a third test of the new capsule, possibly with cosmonauts on board, or a further test of a new upper-stage propulsion system for boosting a spacecraft into a much higher orbit.

An unmanned flight around the moon (with return to earth) is also a possibility. The best opportunity for such a flight during April will come up next week.

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